

# Polar Bears

Developed by: Cathy Walters

Discipline / Subject: Social Studies

Topic: Polar Bears

Grade Level: PK-Kindergarten

Resources / References / Materials Teacher Needs:

1. *Polar Bears* by Gail Gibbons
2. Polar Bear song sheet/ Words copied onto song chart
3. Polar Bear dot-to-dot worksheets
4. Polar bear fact sheet
5. National Geographic's Really Wild Animals: Polar Prowl (1996) – VHS format and narrated by Dudley Moore, the first 20-minutes of this video shows polar bears and grizzlies in their environment. It is excellent!

**Lesson Summary:** After reading *Polar Bears* by Gail Gibbons students will complete an ABC or 123 dot-to-dot of a polar bear. The teacher will read the Polar Bear Fact sheet and students will point to the corresponding physical feature on their completed dot-to-dot polar bear. For example, when the teacher reads the fact, "Polar bears have small ears so they won't freeze." Students point to the ear on their picture. After all the facts have been read, students watch the National Geographic Video. The teacher then introduces the polar bear song to the children.

**Standards Addressed: (Local, State, or National)**

NS Science Content Standard C. As a result of activities in grades K-4, all students should develop understanding of

- The characteristics of organisms
- Life cycles of organisms
- Organisms and environment

Alaska state standards:

History/Social Studies G1&2 Students compare and contrast relative location of people, places and things

Science C. Concepts of Life Science

2. A student who meets the content standard should develop an understanding of the structure, function, behavior, development, life cycles, and diversity of living organisms

**Learning Objectives:**

The student will:

1. Listen to the book, *Polar Bears* by Gail Gibbons
2. Follow instruction to complete a dot-to-dot outline of a polar bear
3. Follow instruction and point to the physical features being named by the teacher
4. Listen quietly to the video
5. Learn a new song about polar bears

**Method of Assessment for Learning:**

Teacher observation

**Procedural Activities:**

1. Sing and move to Dr. Jean Feldman's "Going On A Bear Hunt." This is on her CD entitled, *Dr. Jean Sings Silly Songs*.
2. Read, *Polar Bears* by Gail Gibbons.
3. Hand out either the ABC or 123 dot-to-dot of the polar bear. Demonstrate how to complete the project. Kindergarten students can copy the words Polar Bear at the top of their paper and all students should use a pencil.
4. When the dot-to-dot papers are completed have students join you in the reading area. Instruct them to point to the part of the polar bear you are talking about as you read each polar bear characteristic. Review these facts the following day by asking questions about the facts. For example, "Why are polar bear's ears small?"
5. Watch the first 10-12 minutes of the National Geographic video that shows polar bears in their environment.
6. Teach students the polar bear song.

**Materials Students Need:**

**Polar bear dot-to-dot and a pencil**

**Technology Utilized to Enhance Learning: National Geographic's Really Wild Animals: Polar Prowl (1996) – VHS format**

**Other Information: This lesson leads to the Readers Theater lesson using Jan Brett's book, *The Three Snow Bears* and the lesson comparing Alaska's three bears based on Shelley Gill's book, *Alaska's Three Bears*. This is also a good time to play the three physical education games, Brown Bear, Black Bear, and White Bear that I posted in August.**

**Modifications for Special Learners/ Enrichment Opportunities**

**This activity could be difficult for pre-kindergarten students if used at the beginning of the year. I would demonstrate to the entire class how to complete the ABC dot-to-dot, then work with them in small groups.**